REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6 are amended herein to more clearly recite the subject matter thereof. For the sake of expediting prosecution, Applicant herein cancels claims 12-18, 23-29 and 34-35, without prejudice.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9 10, 12, 13, 18, 23, 26, 27, 29, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over a hypothetical combination of Schultz and a) receiving a plurality of electronic messages to identify commercial correspondence and b) parsing the electronic mail messages to identify commercial correspondence. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites parsing a plurality of electronic mail messages to identify a subset of these messages that comprise commercial correspondence. Note that the electronic mail messages can be on any of a number of topics. Herein, those which concern commercial transactions are singled out through the parsing process. Once the subset of e-mails concerning commercial transactions is identified, relevant commercial data is extracted therefrom and used to create electronic receipts.

Schultz, on the other hand, discusses a seller or third party creating an electronic receipt for each corresponding transaction, and electronically transmitting the receipts to the buyer. [30-33]. Each receipt is an electronic document in a format such as XML. [34]. The receipts are sent to the buyer by means such as e-mail or file transfer protocol. [34]. Receipts can include hyperlinks to other electronic documents, such as advertisements for additional products, or associated warranties and such. [35, 48]. Clicking on these links

triggers requests for appropriate target web pages. [50]. The buyer's computer includes a receipt organizer, which can sort and store the receipts. [37-38]. The computer that generates the receipts can also have a receipt organizer. [40]. Buyers and other parties can utilize a receipt organizer to display specific information concerning the transactions associated with the receipts, such as the dates on which purchases were made and the merchants involved. [66].

In Schultz, a plurality of electronic documents that are known to be receipts are received (by email or otherwise). The received receipts are then processed as described above. Nothing in Schultz discloses or suggests examining and parsing a plurality of electronic mail messages to identify a subset thereof that comprise commercial correspondence, or extracting relevant commercial data from this identified subset to generate receipts, as recited by Claim 1. As noted above, the electronic mail messages can be on any of a number of topics. Herein, as recited by claim 1, those which concern commercial transactions are singled out through the parsing process. Once the subset of e-mails concerning commercial transactions is identified, relevant commercial data is extracted therefrom and used to create electronic receipts. In Schultz by contrast, all received electronic documents are already known to be receipts. These known receipts are then stored, used to link to related web pages, and used to generate reports and such concerning past transactions.

As the Examiner states, Schultz fails to teach "receiving a plurality of electronic messages" and "parsing the electronic mail messages to identify commercial correspondence." However, the Examiner states that Schultz

6

suggests an electronic receipt system within an email system at [34]. At [34] Schultz states that receipts can be delivered by email, or other means. However, Schultz is here discussing an electronic means for delivering known receipts to a user. This in no way suggests parsing a plurality of received email to determine which of the emails concern commercial transactions, much less extracting information therefrom to form receipts. In Schultz, it is already known that each email not only concerns an electronic transaction, but already comprises a receipt.

The Examiner states that "delivering receipts using email" and "filtering email based on user defined policy" are well known in the art, and it would be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to add these features to Schultz. Applicant respectfully notes that this is besides the point. Applicant admits that Schultz discloses "delivering receipts using email." What Schultz does not disclose according to the Examiner's own admission is "receiving a plurality of electronic messages" and "parsing the electronic mail messages to identify commercial correspondence." As for "filtering email based on user defined policy," although Schultz does not disclose this, assuming without admission for the sake of argument that this feature were both a) well known and b) obvious to combine with Schultz, the resulting combination would still not disclose parsing emails that concern commercial correspondence and then extracting the relevant information from those emails to build electronic receipts, as claim 1 recites. In Schultz, all of the incoming emails are known to comprise receipts. Filtering these known receipts based on user defined policy would not disclose or suggest
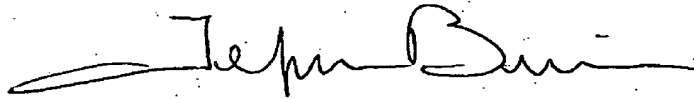
7

parsing out a subset thereof that comprise commercial correspondence, much less extracting information from this subset to build receipts.

Claims 2-5 depend from Claim 1 and should thus be allowable for at least the same reasons. Claim 6 is a method claim reciting limitations that correspond to those of system claim 1, and should thus be allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 7-10 depend from claim 6 and should thus be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 6.

In view of the above, this application is deemed to be in allowable condition. The Examiner is therefore earnestly requested to withdraw all outstanding rejections, allow the application to pass to issue as a United States Patent. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the application, she is invited to please contact Applicant's attorney at (650) 474-8400.

Respectfully submitted,

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8